

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by Mashelkar '578 is respectfully traversed.

Mashelkar '578 is already described and distinguished in the specification (e.g., see the last full paragraph on page 2 and the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3). As explained therein, selectivity for absorption of cobalt was not investigated.

The Examiner nevertheless alleges that such is somehow inherently present in the Mashelkar '578 teachings. Indeed, the Examiner goes so far as to allege that Mashelkar '578 teaches a four-component polymer composition ABCD.

However, Mashelkar '578 actually teaches only a three-component polymer composition ABC. The undersigned has been unable to find any teaching or suggestion of the fourth component D anywhere in the passages cited by the Examiner as allegedly containing such teaching.

Claim 1 has been amended above so as to now require a four-component polymer composition. Such claim is not believed to be either anticipated or suggested by Mashelkar '578.

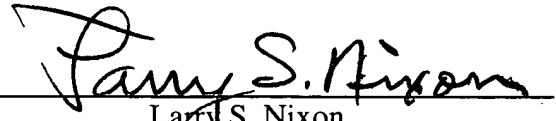
KULKARNI et al.
Appl. No. 10/671,868
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Accordingly, this entire application is now believed to be in allowable condition and a formal Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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